

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 634  
By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to designate April 21-27, 1996 as  
"Victims' Rights Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates that in 1994 our state witnessed 38,705 violent crimes, including 482 murders, 2,545 reported forcible rapes and 24,943 reported aggravated assaults; and

WHEREAS, the number of victims is steadily increasing each year; and

WHEREAS, these hideous crimes leave behind not only the immediate traumatized victims, but also countless other ancillary victims, including wives, husbands, children, relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, the victims of crime often suffer long after the original crime, experiencing continuing frustration with the judicial process, emotional trauma and medical expenses; and

WHEREAS, victims have organized various groups around the state to help themselves by lobbying for tougher laws which recognize the rights of victims, comforting victims and teaching victims about the judicial process; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Victims Coalition was formed to act as one umbrella organization to represent all victims of crime and includes such groups as Organized Victims of Violent Crime (OVVC), the Mothers Support Group, the Compassionate Friends, Remove Intoxicated Drivers (RID), Families and Friends of Murdered Victims (FFMV), Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD), East Tennessee Victims' Rights Task Force, National Organization for

Victims' Assistance, Sexual Assault Crisis Center, Domestic Violence Shelters/Centers, Parents of Murdered Children (POMC), and Help Eliminate Lenient Punishment (HELP); and

WHEREAS, this body and this state should recognize the plight of this group of citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That April 21-27, 1996, is hereby designated as "Victims' Rights Week" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution, with this final resolving clause deleted, be forwarded to each of the above-named groups.

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